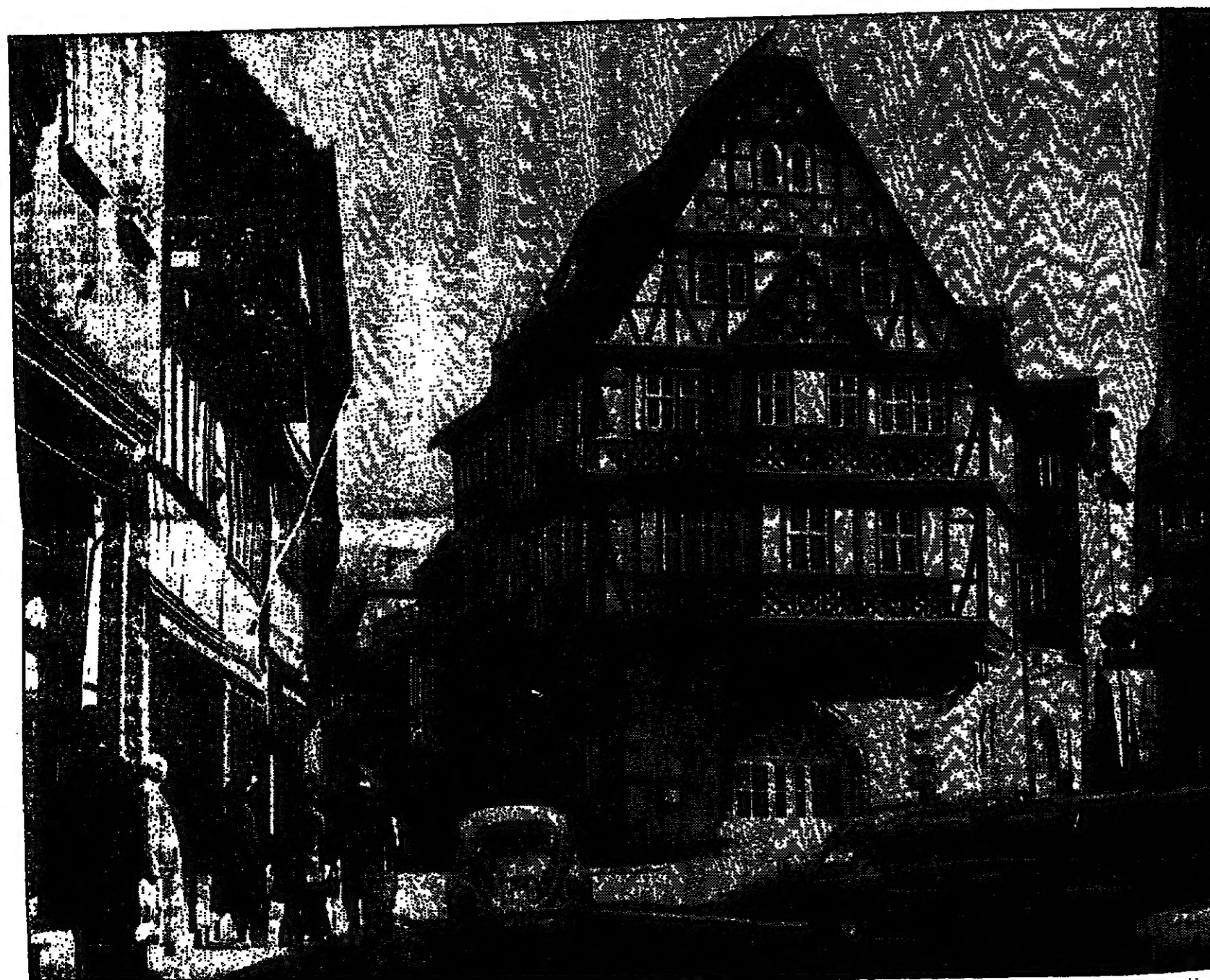


Germany's hotels

Nowhere else in the world is the range of hotels, the hospitality so varied, so elegant, so pleasant as in Germany. You can stay in medieval surroundings or in tomorrow's world of the year 2000, whichever you please. Hotel after hotel - hotels with "stars" and "golden keys"; with half-timbered frames, castle walls, towers. Romantic

courtyards, gardens, wine-cellars, swimming pools. Hotels of glass and concrete and air-conditioned throughout. Just as you're used to in New York or Tokio or Mexico City. Hotels for business people, gourmets, tourists, for the romantically inclined and for those in love. Nowhere else in the world is the range of hospitality so varied.



Hotel Riesen, Milttenberg
Munich



DZT DEUTSCHE ZENTRALE FÜR TOURISMUS
Seethovestraße 55, D-8000 München

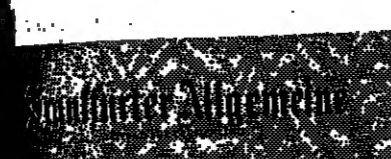
The German Tribune

Bonn, 26 April 1981
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Strength in Nato's diverse nature



The Reagan administration came to office resolved to make Nato the keystone of its foreign policy. This is clearly in the United States' interest: it needs the alliance more than before. The weakening of the United States does not alter the fact that it is the only major power in the alliance.

The qualitative difference between the United States and other Nato members constitutes an inner imbalance that needs to be brought under control. On closer inspection, it turns out that the other members of the alliance are not so different, too. The 15 Nato members have in common membership of and loyalty to the alliance.

Otherwise they differ in size and political, cultural and development, political

political temperament, geographical position and particular interests, which they each interpret in the light of their history.

The diversity of the members could be a weakness, but it is also a source of its strength: the variety of their ideas and experience, the diversity of their material and intellectual backgrounds, complement one another.

It is in the nature of a free alliance that its leadership cannot be a matter solely for the leading power or for that leading power and a number of medium-sized powers.

All members must be involved in leadership. And therefore foreign policy must have its legitimation at home. All the governments in Nato, even the smallest, lead at home - and they can only do so if they do not give the impression of being remote controlled from outside.

Inevitably, there are differences in the degree of cooperation, depending on the capacity of each member to make a contribution - for example in the field of intelligence, diplomacy, economic power, military power.

Here the leading power clearly holds the trump, followed by France, Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. However, no one in the alliance knows more about Libya than the Italians, the Dutch are still the best informed about Indonesia and it would be folly to ignore the knowledge and connections that Portuguese industry and the civil service have gained in southern Africa.

Outside the Nato area, few member states are capable of acting. And the resources they put outside the area will have to be replaced inside the area by other members. All should contribute to making up "at home" for what others

Continued on page 2



Exchanging ideas. American Secretary of State Alexander Haig in Bonn with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher (left) and the Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt. (Photo: dpa)

Haig winds-up tour with cordial talks in Bonn

Bonn was the last stopover on US Secretary of State Haig's nine-day visit to the Middle East and Europe. It was also the shortest.

The cordiality of his meeting with Chancellor Schmidt and Foreign Minister Genscher was genuine - despite a number of problems between Bonn and Washington.

They all know each other from the days when Haig was Nato Supreme Commander in Brussels. And Herr Genscher visited his US opposite number in Washington recently.

However, the pleasant nature of their meeting did not eliminate all the problems.

It was already known that Haig's tone was more moderate than that of his colleague Weinberger from the Pentagon.

Haig was clearly trying to calm a certain amount of Bonn shock at Weinberger's forthrightness.

In Washington, too, realities are not always as fearsome as the tough talk might lead us to believe.

However, Weinberger's criticisms are not the only ones. There are increasingly critical voices being raised in the White House about the role of the Europeans, especially West Germany, in Nato.

What goes? Weinberger's hard line or Haig's softer one? The Bonn government probably will not know for sure until Helmut Schmidt has visited President Reagan in Washington on 20 May. The Europeans have now noticed that the Atlantic *Gemüchlichkeit* of the 70s is over. On the other hand it is also forgotten that Europeans have in recent years also called for more leadership from the United States.

Despite all the assurances of common positions on the Nato modernisation decision, Haig's visit underlined differences of opinion.

The USA want negotiations with the Soviet Union on medium range nuclear missiles "as soon as possible." But Washington will decide what is "possible" and will not be pressured by its allies.

Like it or not, Schmidt and Genscher had to agree to missile reduction negotiations taking place outside the Salt process - with only the results being incorporated in Salt. Here the USA is sticking to its hard line of not resuming Salt negotiations until the Soviets move on Afghanistan.

Although the question of arms exports to Saudi Arabia was not officially broached in Bonn, Secretary of State Haig gave a signal when he indicated to journalists that despite the Israel problem

Continued on page 2

Middle East states play it warily over Gulf



Saudi Arabia's foreign policy is extremely complex. It keeps well distant from Moscow, but it distances from Washington has also grown.

Riyadh would like to keep both great powers out of the Gulf, because it believes that the presence of one would attract the other. American protection is desired - but at a certain distance.

The Saudi dynasty is well aware of the

anti-Americanism that led to the overthrow of the Shah of Iran. The Saudi royal family does not wish to appear arm in arm with the Americans. And its fear of being overrun by radical Arab forces if they do not march at the head of the anti-Israeli movement is even greater.

For Saudi Arabia, weapons from Europe are a symbol of independence. After Haig's failure, Helmut Schmidt can now expect Saudi pressure for German tanks to be even stronger when he visits Saudi Arabia shortly.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 April 1981)

The Madrid review of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) is deadlocked after 17 weeks of conference proper and nine weeks of preliminaries.

However, the mood of the German delegation in the final week before delegates departed for the Easter break was hopeful, not because of the Soviet Union's attitude in Madrid, but because of the encouraging reports following Bonn Foreign Minister Genscher's visit to Moscow.

Work in Madrid should have been completed by 5 March. But no important agreement has yet been reached and not a single line of the final communiqué has been written.

To break out of this deadlock the neutral and non-aligned states made an unofficial proposal for a final communiqué on 31 March.

Predictably, this compromise was criticized both by East and West. West German delegation leader Kasli made clear what his objections were: no mention of the right of free access to embassies and consulates; and the need for more precise formulation on the human rights questions.

Also the document made no mention of the high compulsory exchange rates for West German visitors to the GDR.

Nonetheless the final document — in the drafting of which Switzerland played a leading part — is regarded as a

THE BALANCE OF POWER

Madrid conference in a deadlock

promising starting point for comprehensive and substantial final document.

The neutral states closest to the West — Switzerland and Austria — often with support from Yugoslavia, Cyprus, Liechtenstein and San Marino — won the day in the face of the understandable hesitancy of Finland, which has to take possible Soviet disapproval into account, and the less understandable caution of Sweden.

At the end there was a tough confrontation between Herr Kasli and the deputy Soviet Foreign Minister Ilijichov. Kasli accused Ilijichov of making ultimatums and thus preventing a result. Ilijichov accused the Germans of sensationalism and grouped them among the bad boys of the West alongside Great Britain and the United States.

Brezhnev has already surprised the conference once, when he declared his willingness to discuss the extension of European arms control to the Urals. Only two days previously Ilijichov had described precisely this idea as absurd and immoral.

Although Ilijichov and his East Bloc supporters were anything but prepared to make concessions in the week before Easter, there was a general impression among Western delegations that the Soviet Union is now at last prepared to pay an appropriate price for the European disarmament conference which it wants — but it will make every effort to keep this price as low as possible.

In their final speeches before the Easter break East Bloc representatives doggedly and deliberately set about taking the sting out of the neutral countries' compromise proposals.

They want, for example, to get around the call for respect of human rights (principle 7) by coupling it with principle 6 (non-intervention in the internal affairs of other countries) and principle 9 (cooperation).

The Western states rejected these at-

tempts firmly, pointing out, with a certain degree of smugness, that the principle of non-intervention was very topical at the present time.

Everyone realised that these were references to Afghanistan and to Poland, though few mentioned the former and no one the latter.

In Madrid the western countries showed far greater unity than in Belgrade. After initial hesitation, Washington took the interests and wishes of its allies into account on the question of the disarmament conference.

East European delegates and observers admitted in private conversation that Moscow's hopes of divisions in the western camp had not been fulfilled.

Although Ilijichov and his colleagues showed plenty of initiative and imagination, they did not succeed in driving a wedge into the Western phalanx — which included host country Spain.

The Americans showed themselves willing to learn, at least outwardly. US under-secretary of state Eagleburger said how instructive his conversations with European heads of government on Central America had been — though he had come to Europe determined to persuade the Europeans to give clear support to US policy in El Salvador.

Moscow would like to see the disarmament conference uncoupled from the

CSCE process. The West insists on time difference between the two phases of the disarmament conference. In the first phase, in which agreement is to be reached on confidence building measures (manoeuvres observations, reports of troop movements) the next conference on cooperation and security in Europe could take place.

There will undoubtedly be differences of opinion in May about the most important preconditions for a disarmament conference — agreement or at least convergence of viewpoints on questions of the military importance of nuclear weapons, checking and control.

In the final week of the conference the British and the Americans brought up the question of the implementation of the first phase of the CSCE. Look-back at the extent to which treaties had acted on their commitments Helsinki.

There was talk of Afghanistan, the maltreatment of human rights and for the first time in a long time of the Madrid conference palace.

With their complaint about the treatment of the border question in West German school text books and the first East Bloc countries start with implementation.

Spanish delegation leader and ambassador Repérez summed up the attitude of most Western delegations in some passages of his address. He depicted the situation as bleak as it really is.

Helmut Schmidt's address did not depict a matter-of-fact analysis of the German-German and the East-West situation in Europe.

Walter Haub

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 18 April 1981)

HOME AFFAIRS

Problem of unifying strategy remains

He clearly said what could happen if those prevailed in this country who would like to do away with the term "nation": a dangerous nationalistic reaction would ensue.

Schmidt's former permanent representative in East Berlin, Günter Gaus (he is now senator in Berlin) must have pricked his ears when Schmidt said: "If we were to forget about the nation we would be acting selfishly and devoid of solidarity with our fellow countrymen in the GDR for whom identification with one German nation is a more vital necessity than it is here."

Schmidt said that the German nation would continue to exist as long as the people in the two parts of Germany wanted it to exist.

He did not, however, say how he intended to revive the will to reunification which is threatening to dwindle as the old generation passes away.

The Bonn government evidently has no strategic concept that could dissuade the East Berlin rulers from their dogged determination to bring about a total separation in terms of international law of the two Germanies and to institute East German citizenship.

Meanwhile, the struggle is on in Bonn and Brussels to prevent an economic decline in the Federal Republic of Germany, assuaging conscience with the argument that there is nothing to be done on behalf of the Germans in the eastern part of the country who in any event have known worse times.

The least the Bonn government should tell the GDR as a party to treaties that have not been spelled out in as much detail as necessary is the consequences and reactions that must ensue should these treaties not be honoured and should the letter and the spirit of them be violated.

It is this lack of a warning addressed directly to East Berlin that made the state of the nation address so unsatisfactory.

In what is admittedly a delicate area of German politics, Bonn has managed to describe the position, but it has offer-



Chancellor Schmidt during his state of the nation speech in the Bundestag. (Photo: dpa)

ed no instruments and perspectives with which to reverse the retrogressive trend.

Granted, it is difficult to find a concept that would bring the Germans closer to each other again. But even a beginning would mean a great deal. The mere appeal to make moderation, perseverance and reliability German virtues is not enough.

On the other hand, nobody can accuse the Chancellor of having minimised the threat to peace that results from the Soviet arms buildup.

The manner and poignancy with which he did this after leaving it to Hans-Dietrich Genscher for months to sound the warnings lends that extra weight to his statements.

Even the most naive must realise by now that the danger comes from the more than 1,000 nuclear warheads which Moscow has targeted on Western Europe and not from American medium-range missiles of the same capacity which in any event will not be stationed in Europe until 1983 at the earliest.

Schmidt blames the Soviet Union for the dark clouds on the horizon of world politics — and there is little to be added to this.

A danger that has been pinpointed is a danger halved if the threatened party is determined to counter it.

Moscow reacted with remarkable re-

straint and did not even bother to deny the figures given by Schmidt. All that was said in Moscow was that missile did not equal missile.

So far as the citizenship question is concerned, the GDR news agency ADN spoke of a "revanchist attitude that runs counter to international law." For the rest, it said, Schmidt lacked the willingness to "accept facts."

East Berlin thus continues on its tough course.

Standing firmly on the side of his Western allies, the Chancellor could seek to restore the balance of power and at the same time negotiate disarmament if it were not for those influential groupings within his party that deny the threat from Moscow and those that exaggerate it.

The Young Democrats have intimidated Genscher that the disarmament initiative within his party would come to the fore in the next few weeks; and the same applies to Schmidt and his fellow party members.

Schmidt cannot even be sure of receiving the support of SPD Chairman Willy Brandt on this issue.

But, if they join forces, the realists in the SPD and FDP should be able to keep the lid on the pot.

Karl Heinz Hock
(Allgemeine Zeitung, 11 April 1981)

Haig tour

Continued from page 1

lem, the USA would probably have no choice but to supply Saudi Arabia with modern fighter jets. Now the SPD can have three guesses about what would be more dangerous to Israel — German tanks or American jets.

Moreover, Haig told his Bonn discussion partners in no uncertain terms that it should exercise restraint in Middle East questions. Unlike the EC, Washington wants no upgrading of the PLO at the moment.

Rudi Kilgus

(Mannheimer Morgen, 13 April 1981)

Continued from page 1

are doing "away from home." This requires unity, cooperation and consultation — even with those not directly involved, the smaller NATO members.

Division of labour is the new NATO slogan. If this is not to mean an unfair division and if we wish to prevent some members from degenerating into the parasitic state of free-loaders, then it is important that all alliance members can participate and feel involved.

Of course this is complex and time-consuming. It would appear to be more efficient if the United States and some leading medium-sized powers would form a NATO steering committee, a NATO executive in which decisions could be made quickly.

But the efficiency that might thus be gained in the short term would be bought at the cost of much political good-will.

There would be a risk not only of irritation among the excluded but also of jealousy among those involved. One example of the was the planned NATO "Big power" conference of February 1980 — which never took place.

French diplomacy has always been fond of the idea of a directory in NATO.

Nato strength

The Guadeloupe conference in 1979 was a blueprint. But Giscard d'Estaing called the whole thing off because he did not want Italy to join the discussions as the fifth power.

Experience shows that new organs in NATO or a redefining of status among allies does more harm than good.

Of course there is nothing to prevent informal consultations — especially among those most directly involved — before discussions in the NATO council.

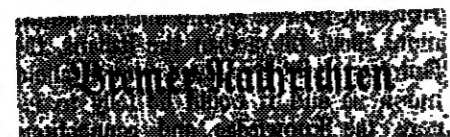
This is nothing new. NATO members have indeed long since accepted it — provided it is done discreetly and no government is snubbed. Conferences of ministers are much too conspicuous events for such pre-coordination.

Top diplomats and secretaries of state are quiet people, scarcely known. And they travel around so much that it is difficult to keep track of them.

Günther Glatzer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 April 1981)

Bonn's offer to Moscow comes with a warning



When asked what he thought of a US-Soviet summit, President Reagan said: "I do not believe there is much point in getting round a table with them unless there is a sign that they have changed their attitude — and their activities."

Snubbed in Washington, Leonid Brezhnev has chosen a second best destination: Bonn. And unlike Reagan, Chancellor Schmidt has no objections.

Last year Schmidt was out of luck with his *ostpolitik* summit diplomacy. Two planned meetings with East German leader Erich Honecker had to be cancelled, the first because of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan and the second because of the unrest in Poland. And the meeting between Gierke and Schmidt was also spoilt by Poland.

The unrest in Poland is still far from over. There are alarming reports of military activity along the Russo-Polish frontier. Poland's East Bloc neighbours are alarmed at the danger of infection and are putting up their defences against the spreaders of the freedom bacillus.

The renewed consideration of another Borin-Moscow meeting does not seem to fit in well in the present East-West situation — even if one grants that Schmidt cannot demand the same kind of pre-talk concessions as the USA.

Brezhnev's interest now in accepting

the courtesy invitation Schmidt had offered him during his controversial visit to Moscow last year, confirms suspicion that his aim is to entangle the Germans in "special disarmament talks."

The proposed visit could also be seen as a sign that all the political and military activities in the East Bloc against the West are only threatening. Schmidt has made it clear that he would be an end to Western aid if the land were attacked from within or without.

Bonn's positive response to Brezhnev can be seen as a coded message to the East Bloc — says that Bonn assumes that the KGB has duly noted Western warnings.

Siegfried Maruhn
(Bresmer Nachrichten, 7 April 1981)

The German Tribune

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DEFENCE

Cutback on aircraft use ordered to reduce spending

The Luftwaffe is partly to take out of action 100 aircraft as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

This means that only absolutely necessary cash for maintenance will be used.

This mothballing step follows a Defence Ministry decision last month that can be summed up in three words: scrapping, postponing and stretching.

Assisted by civilian and military advisers, Defence Minister Hans Apel has thus managed to save DM 1.3bn from his DM 3.7bn procurement budget for 1982/84.

The missing billion needed to make up the DM 2.3bn shortfall is expected to come from the Finance Ministry in the form of a supplementary allocation.

The defence minister has meanwhile come under a barrage on two points. On the one hand, he stands accused of not having revealed all figures and of covering up for a shortfall that is rather worse than admitted (CDU politician Manfred Wörner recently said that the Bundeswehr was on the verge of bankruptcy) and, on the other hand, the air force and army chiefs of staff are said to have complained about the cutbacks.

There is a consensus among many critics that Bonn's arms policy has atrophied to the point where it is simply an extended arm of its finance policy, orientating itself not by the growing threat but only by the growing deficit.

The truth is probably that the Bundeswehr has reached a turning point in its assessment of strategic exigencies on the one hand and financial necessities on the other.

The accent was very much different during the many fat years when demands on the budget were unending — and were met.

Only what was expensive was considered good in those days. This resulted in the Tornado — an aircraft which the Bundeswehr can no longer afford.

In fact, it was the military that drove the prices up by setting excessively demanding standards on the procurement front.

The misfortune of the Bundeswehr lies in the fact that the necessity to

economise comes at the very moment when everybody — and above all Germany's foremost ally, the United States — is labouring under the impact of stepped-up Soviet armaments and the necessity for the West to improve its own military potential.

Of course, the threat from the East can be used to argue that the Tornado is indispensable. But the Bundeswehr should once more remember its limitations and the fact that it is not the only pillar of Nato.

Its main task is still to provide the necessary land forces with which to defend central Europe — no mean task and one that must be given priority. Still, without a reasonable measure of sophisticated arms technology even this task cannot be fulfilled.

The scrapping of the army's most expensive project, the anti-tank missile, Milan, demonstrates the wrong deve-

lopments that are possible even in this sector.

But none of the experts are particularly disturbed over this latest decision. Milan is a typical example of "overbred" technology. It is an ideal weapon for long-range work which virtually never occurs under central European conditions. By the same token, it is virtually useless at short range.

Even the naive lamentation that it was defensive weapons that were struck from the procurement list at the latest Defence Ministry conference cannot save this system. Granted, Milan is indeed a defensive weapon, but above all it is a product of high-tech technology that has fallen short of expectations.

Essentially, the army has acted pretty much like society at large over procurements: fascinated by the technical possibilities, it went on a buying spree without considering the consequences.

The Bundeswehr has a lacked a sense for inexpensive solutions from its very inception. Ever since the rejection of the Bonin Plan in the 1950s, simple hardware has been considered taboo — and

Soldiers are maltreated more often than is generally assumed, according to the Bundeswehr Ombudsman, Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan.

In his annual report, he said many soldiers suffered indignities without complaining.

By not reporting incidents, they hoped to avoid more troubles. But it also meant that the extent of the problem was disguised.

Herr Berkhan illustrated his report with several examples.

In one case, two soldiers held another while others poured candle wax, shampoo and cocoa over him. Then they urinated in his gym shoes.

The victim was considered not too bright, physically weak and not particularly clean. This had prompted his superior, an NCO, to tell his roommates to teach him a lesson. He told them that they could do anything they pleased short of killing the man.

So they trussed him up and tied him

More soldiers maltreated than the figures indicate

to his bed. Then they took off his pants and smeared shoe polish and ketchup all over him.

The NCO was given a 9-month suspended sentence while the men received disciplinary punishment and were fined up to DM 1,600.

This incident highlights a problem the Bundeswehr has to cope with.

Some time ago, army Chief of Staff Hans Pöppel pointed out that a number of serious incidents had occurred among the ranks — incidents involving violence.

Recruits, he said, were frequently mistreated by their seniors and outsiders had a particularly tough time of it.

Ombudsman Berkhan has now once more drawn attention to these occurrences.

He describes another case: two soldiers who had almost completed their basic training, went on a drinking bout. Then they went into a barracks with young recruits and beat them up so severely that one of them had to have his injuries stitched, another had a broken toe and a third was concussed.

Berkhan deplors not only the violence but above all the fact that much of this takes place with the knowledge of the men's superiors, and is indeed condoned by them.

In another incident, some draftees who had been drinking went to a sleeping colleague and tried to make him join them. When he refused they forced him to take off his pyjamas and get under the shower which they kept turning on hot and cold in turn. One of the men smeared black shoe polish over the victim's genitals and he was then forced to clean himself with a lavatory brush.

Berkhan called on officers to communicate more closely with their men.

the Bundeswehr could even tacit support by the public.

Alternative armament models have required better soldiers and mobilisation of more reservists. In words, more money for manpower, nobody wanted this drain on the industrial work force and interference with our affluent leisure society. So it is considered better to let the armaments proceed with their armaments programme instead.

Projections resulting from the trend to economise and the German-American plans have clear meanwhile that the reservist is to be tapped more than in the past. (But proponents of such alternatives frequently omit to mention such a reservist force also costs money.)

Once the defence priorities are properly set and the reservist force has been fully calculated we will turn to a third problem: defence as a whole. How much is enough? Germany and how much is necessary.

In terms of absolute figures, the East Berlin Party organ *Deutsches Volk* seems to be satisfied. A report on the departure of the congress reads: "Thanks to the exemplary performance in the great mass competition in the GDR's history, the delegates can point to targets

that have been met and to daily outputs beyond target."

So the delegates are dead on target. But the planners are clearly short of it.

Gerhard Schürer, chairman of the state planning commission and Politburo candidate since 1973, is still to present the Five Year Plan for 1981 through 1985.

Difficulties on world markets, the Polish crisis and problems in coordinating the plans of the other Comecon countries in conjunction with the GDR's medium-term planning, have led to a situation in which the planners are afraid to present their figures and data in good time, which would have meant in January. Had they done so the customary big "people's debate" could have taken place before the congress.

The way things stand, there is every likelihood that Prime Minister Stoph will report to the congress on the "Directives on the Five Year Plan for the Development of the National Eco-

nomy of the GDR in the Years 1981-1985".

It will then be up to the congress to rule on the issue without the relevant figures and data of the plan being known to all and without their having been discussed.

For Schürer, who has just turned 60, this is unlikely to be a red letter day.

But all this leaves the people of the GDR cold. They realise that, things being as they are, a party congress ("The dominant force of the Workers' and Farmers' State") brings them no benefits and that they should in fact be grateful if the economic position does not deteriorate further.

Any social programme like that which was announced immediately before the 9th congress in 1976 is out of the question, and so is the 40-hour work week of which the East Germans can only dream.

Nor is Honecker's slogan to the effect that "you can only spend if you produce" likely to prod anybody into working harder.

The realisation is spreading in East Germany that more and more of the goods that are produced are exported or that they must go to the "crazy, strike-obsessed and insatiable Poles".

The East German State Security Service has every reason to be satisfied so far about Poland. There is a growing anti-Polish mood among the public and even those who ponder reforms of the GDR's bureaucratic socialism are immune against the "Polish virus".

Many East Germans have adopted an attitude that can best be summed up as "rather a terrifying end than terror without end."

Poland is bound to overshadow the Congress even should Honecker desist from the harsh tone used by Czechoslovakia's party boss Husak at that country's recent party congress.

Developments in Poland have not only hampered medium and long-term planning. They have also made progress in normalising German-German relations almost impossible.

Honecker's report is likely to dwell at some length on the "Brussels missiles

INTRA-GERMAN AFFAIRS

GDR plagued by production worries as party congress convenes

production capacity is inadequate, raw materials are short, and sub-contractors are unable to keep to schedule: these are the reasons why exhortations in the GDR to increase output are bound to fail.

Workers in the GDR were last year unable to exceed the daily target "in honour of the 10th party congress" this year.

It is open to doubt whether the target was even met.

In any event, all the ado over the targets (which the people try to ignore but they can) only serves to promote a situation in which the planners are afraid to present their figures and data in good time, which would have meant in January. Had they done so the customary big "people's debate" could have taken place before the congress.

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Honecker's report is likely to dwell at some length on the "Brussels missiles

decision" and on the fact that the two German states must now above all discuss arms limitation and disarmament. But there is unlikely to be any reference to easing up on travel restrictions between the two Germanies or on the compulsory currency exchange for visitors from the West.

It would be surprising if Honecker were not to reiterate the demand he made in Gera and it would be equally surprising if he did not reaffirm his recently expressed view that Germany could be reunited under a socialist regime.

It is unlikely that the congress will give any signals to indicate a continuation of the German-German treaty policy and an easing of the GDR's isolation and confrontation policy as practised since last August.

The maxims dominating the 10th congress (which comes four weeks before the 10th anniversary of Honecker's accession to Ulbricht's office) can be summed up as: preserving and securing power and conserving the status quo.

But notwithstanding the fact that Honecker's programme aimed at a continuously growing national affluence has

ground to a halt as has his cooperation policy with Bonn (which the Soviet Union opposed at the beginning), his position at the top of the Communist Party remains unshakable.

He is thus the undisputed number one personality in the GDR — without a rival and without any opposing group in the Politburo.

And since the SED leadership is not "over aged" (the average age of the 18 Politburo members after the death of Gerhard Grunberg is 60) there is no reason for a reshuffle at the top of the Party.

There is a possibility that Albert Norden, who is 76 (and ailing) will be retired and that the youngest of the seven Politburo candidates, 44-year-old Egon Krenz, Free German youth chairman since 1974, will become a full member and be given a post in the Secretariat.

But this need not happen at this congress although a successor to Grunberg in the post of central committee secretary for agriculture will have to be found.

Jochen Winters
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 11 April 1981)

Honecker puts a price on better-relations call

GDR party leader Erich Honecker wants to continue promoting better relations with Bonn, he said at the 10th congress in East Berlin.

In this, he agrees with Chancellor Schmidt.

However, the problem is that Honecker imposes conditions on bettering relations that Schmidt cannot meet.

Like in his Gera speech last October, Honecker again demanded that GDR citizenship be recognised and that the respective missions of the two countries be regarded to embassies.

Honecker also strictly rejects the unity of the German nation, which Schmidt reaffirmed in the Bundestag.

Instead, the East German leader talks of "differences in national interests" between the GDR and the Federal Republic of Germany.

He also rejected the lifting of the compulsory currency exchange imposed on visitors to the GDR is not up for discussion, Honecker made clear.

Honecker makes a "normalisation" of German-German ties contingent on Bonn reducing its defence effort and not going along with the dual Nato mission to boost its medium range missiles in Europe and negotiate disarmament. And this is another condition Schmidt cannot meet.

If he were to act in accordance with the wishes of East Berlin and Moscow, he would take a step that would be tantamount to opting out of Nato.

In fact, any Ostpolitik or Deutschpolitik conducted by Bonn without backing would soon find itself at a dead end and lead to yielding to East German interests.

Honecker refuses to concede to Bonn what he takes for granted about his own country: membership in an alliance.

Schmidt's view that a meeting with Honecker would have to wait for a more opportune moment for both par-

ties" has been confirmed by the East Berlin congress.

At present, no concrete progress can be made, notwithstanding the fact that Honecker spoke détente, arms control and normalisation. The point is that these terms mean different things to him and the chancellor.

In assessing the GDR's policy, it would be useful to see East Berlin for what it is: a dependable ally of the Kremlin.

Not everything can be attributed to East Germany's drive to seal itself off from the Federal Republic of Germany. Yet Honecker is more than just Brezhnev's stooge.

He is convinced that his policy is right and that it does not exclude limited cooperation with Bonn — especially in the economic sector.

(General-Anzeiger, 12 April 1981)

The German-German border is becoming increasingly impenetrable. Only 51 Germans managed to escape from the GDR to West Germany last year compared with 80 in 1979, says the annual report of the border police.

Nine of the 51 escapees were members of the GDR border police, an increase of three. In addition, 185 Germans asked for admission to the Federal Republic at border checkpoints.

Would-be refugees were arrested by GDR guards on 15 occasions.

Three escapees were wounded by self-shooters or shots fired by the guards. The report goes on to say: "There are in all likelihood a great number of unknown escape attempts that failed."

The GDR border barriers were "improved" still further last year: 410 kilometres are now equipped with self-shooters compared with 393 kilometres in 1979.

Old guard towers are being replaced by new ones with one-way mirror glass

Fewer manage to escape to West across border

2.8 kilos, for opium from 252 to 17 grammes.

Experts say that this is due to the increased employment of the so-called "ant strategy". Instead of smuggling large quantities, retail dealers now cross the border with very small amounts.

West German border police strength reached a peak last year of 22,300.

Most of its work was concentrated on controlling border traffic which amounted to 900 million people crossing 711 checkpoints — 22 million more than in 1979.

The main attention was devoted to law breakers. The officers arrested 40,000 persons who were already on wanted lists and another 46,000 unlisted ones.

Ulrich Lake
(Die Welt, 8 April 1981)

Old guard towers are being replaced by new ones with one-way mirror glass

to prevent observers from the West from seeing what goes on within.

A major area of concern for the interior minister is the increased smuggling of drugs across the border.

West German border police chalked up considerable successes last year in this field. Close to 5,000 people (500 more than in 1979) were arrested at border checkpoints on suspicion of smuggling drugs. But the quantity of confiscated drugs has gone down: for hashish from 106 to 69 kilos, for cannabis from 68 to 49.5 kilos, for heroin from 5.1 to

Report 'aims at change in objection provisions'

A comment in the annual report of the Bundeswehr Ombudsman, Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan, is clearly aimed at getting conscientious objection provisions altered.

He said the lack of understanding among draftees about the need for national service was deplorable. This meant the attitude to defence as a whole.

The report's concern that this lack of motivation could jeopardise the Bundeswehr once the low birth rate generation is drafted seems have met with little understanding among our MPs.

But the intention of the remark is clearly to redraft the conscientious objection provisions in a manner that would correspond exactly to the Constitution, i.e. conscientious objection for

reasons of conscience and not to cater to simple unwillingness to serve.

By coincidence, the presentation of the ombudsman's report came at the same time as the closing of Nato's Nuclear Planning Staff meeting in Bonn.

The concern over the Soviet armament drive expressed by the Nato defence ministers convincingly underscored the need for an added defence effort.

But the ombudsman's demand that the need to maintain our defences be driven home to our draftees more decisively than hitherto must not be restricted to the Bundeswehr. It must encompass society as a whole.

Wörner Neumann
(Lübecker Nachrichten, 9 April 1981)



Karl-Wilhelm Berkhan
(Photo: DPA)

paying particular attention to officers and NCOs inspect barracks, during the year.

Another area of concern is the similar acts of larceny.

The report points to the fact that the theft of uniforms and the stealing of tools and equipment are common.

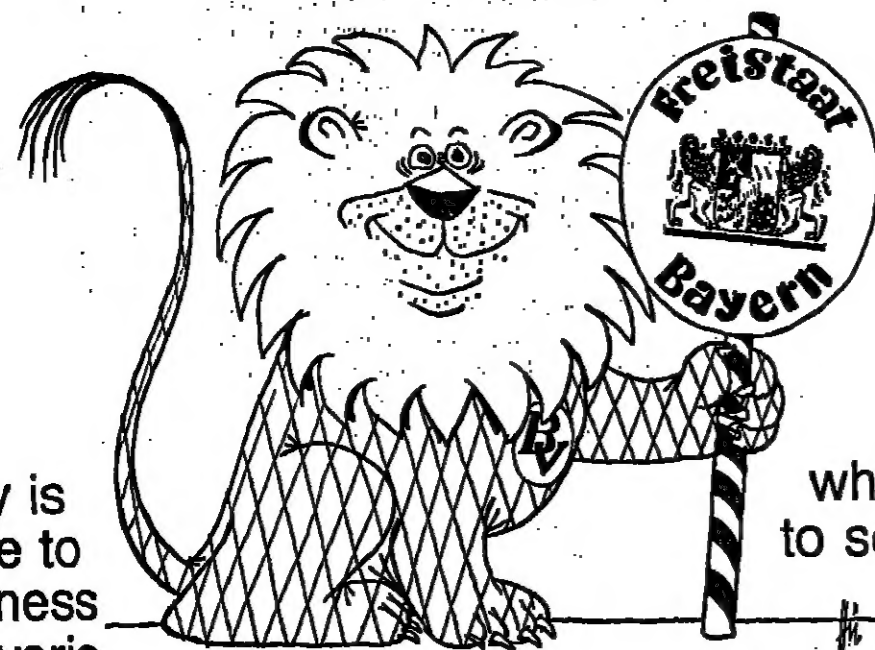
Where the theft of arms and munition is concerned, Herr Berkhan tributes this primarily to the men's lack of a souvenir of their time in the army.

Regarding violence, he said the reported incidents did not point to a generalisation that there was a lack of order in the armed forces.

said, many of these excesses were blamed on alcohol.

Friedrich
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 9 April 1981)

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ENERGY

Cash limits jeopardise nuclear plant

The Bonn Ministry of Research says that only one of West Germany's most ambitious nuclear-power projects can be financed.

It has not yet been decided which one will get the axe.

The plants are the SNR 300 at Kalkar, in the lower Rhine, and the THTR 300 at Schmehausen, near Hamm, in the east.

The Kalkar plant is a sodium-cooled fast breeder and the other a thorium high-temperature prototype.

Both projects have been delayed and, according to current estimates, will cost about DM8bn, three times the original estimate.

Bonn Research Minister Andreas von Arnim emphasises that Bonn is not prepared, in the case of Kalkar, to go on paying the bill forever.

One encouraging sign for Schmehausen is that the North Rhine-Westphalian Supreme Administrative Court in Münster has lifted a court-imposed construction ban.

However, one of the main objectors to the plant, Hamm building contractor Siegfried Schleicher, does not intend to be up the fight.

And the Arnberg Administrative Court is still not convinced that the reactor, the first large-scale German high-temperature reactor, would be really safe in the event of sabotage, earthquake or fire.

Mr von Arnim says about the Kalkar plant that Bonn would only be prepared to pay a certain amount per year towards it - on condition that West German electricity supply companies make their contribution to filling the DM1bn gap for the fast breeder. In talks with von Arnim, these companies have completely rejected this idea.

Von Arnim said that only the Essen utility giant RWE, main shareholder

of the joint German-Dutch-Belgian project in Kalkar had set a good example by promising to put DM62m into the project in 1981 and 1982.

And Kraftwerkunion (KWU), Germany's largest atomic reactor constructors, have promised DM20m. This brings the total up to DM82m, which is a mere fraction of the originally estimated price of DM1.6 for the fast breeder - not to mention the present estimated cost of at least DM5bn.

And even this stupendous estimate is based on the quite possibly over-optimistic assumption that there will be steady progress in construction up to 1986.

So far progress with Kalkar has been so slow that many politicians and experts had their doubts whether a fast breeder finished as late as 1986 would enable this country to keep pace with the development of this technology. The French are now 15 years ahead.

Von Arnim also pointed out that West Germany lags behind in terms of energy industry investment. Energy companies played a far greater part in research and development in other countries.

Von Arnim welcomed the proposed contribution of RWE and KWU but only said that he would continue to look in view of the huge gap in the Kalkar project's finances.

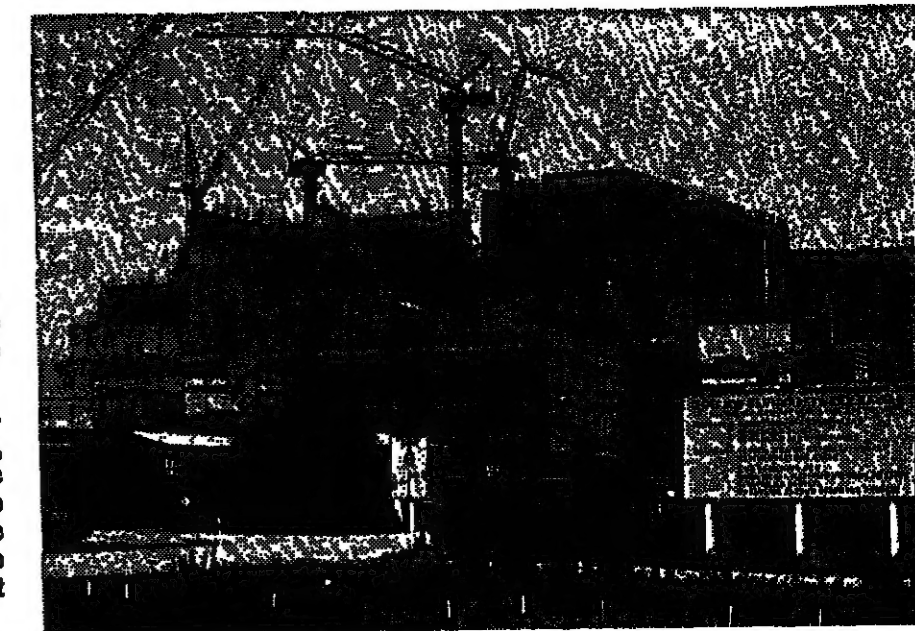
He appealed to the electricity supply companies to make a greater contribution. West Germany could not renounce fast breeder technology in view of the expected energy crisis by the year 2000.

Von Arnim told the heads of the electricity supply companies: "There is a credibility gap between your interest in atomic energy development and your willingness to finance these developments."

If, despite all the uncertainties, the fast breeder were in operation by 1986 the Bundestag would still have to give its permission for it to start producing electricity.

Parliament reserved the right to make this decision because this is the first German plutonium project and fast breeder reactors alarm a large section of the population, especially opponents of atomic energy.

Horst Ludwig Riemer, former North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of Economic Affairs, has starkly forecast that "Kalkar will end up a ruin." He warned against pumping further billions into the project. This would be irresponsible towards the taxpayers. And he again introduced his



Future in doubt: the nuclear power plant at Kalkar.

(Photo: Sven Simon)

proposal - scorned by the atomic industry - to turn Kalkar into a plutonium destruction instead of a plutonium creation plant.

Even if the breeder one day became operational it would be no more than a technological and scientific ruin, he said, referring to France's huge lead in this field.

The financial disaster Kalkar now threatens to descend upon a completely different kind of nuclear technology - the Hamm high temperature reactor.

Von Arnim's experts at the Ministry of Research have worked out that Bonn can only afford to finance either Kalkar or Hamm - but not both.

If Bonn withdrew public support from

Hamm, it would face massive resistance from the Düsseldorf SPD, who regard Hamm as having a key role in its coal technology programme. These high temperature reactors could one day be used to convert coal into gas which could then be supplied to the chemical industry instead of precious oil.

Siegfried Schleicher, backed by the Greens and other environmental groups, is fighting the Hamm project. The partial construction ban has now been lifted but he is still hopeful of getting a total ban on building in the final instance: "And then they will have to pull the whole thing down."

Hans Wüllenweber

(Stuttgarter Nachrichten, 10 April 1981)

New solar cell 'is more effective'

A more energy-effective solar cell has been developed at Erlangen University.

The new cell is easier to produce, so it should also be cheaper.

The current cell, made of monocrystalline silicon, is 13 to 14 per cent effective.

But the new one, developed by R. Hezel of the university's Material Sciences Department, is 16 per cent effective.

This could easily be boosted to 19 per cent in the near future.

Hezel's development could be an important step towards the economical use of solar cells.

Much effort is going into reducing costs in this form of energy.

One method is to use polycrystalline or amorphous material instead of the expensive silicon chips. This is cheaper, but less effective, as greater amounts are needed.

To produce traditional silicon solar cells it is necessary so to change the material's electrical qualities that a "pn transition" - or border layer between positive and negative particles - is formed.

For this purpose extraneous substances such as phosphorus are heated up to 850 degrees and mixed with the silicon.

However, the high temperature alters crystalline structure and this affects effectiveness.

Hezel's method does not entail the use of high temperatures and so the material is not subjected to such pressure. And the number of procedures involved

is fewer. The new solar cell has a fundamentally different structure.

The silicon is covered by a thin oxide layer of 1.2 to 1.6 nanometres. On top of this comes a silicon nitride layer 80 nanometres thick. Here positive charges arise and these are vital for the effective functioning of a solar cell.

When light has created a positive and a negative charge carrier, they are separated in an electrical field. The electrons penetrate the oxide layer and enter the metal electrodes in the silicon nitride. The electric voltage in these cells is higher than in normal cells.

The silicon nitride forms an opaque, mechanically and chemically powerfully resistant layer. This layer is the product of a chemical reaction between silan and ammonia on the silicon disc.

In this process atomic hydrogen is produced, which neutralises crystalline defects. This improves effectiveness, particularly useful in the case of polycrystalline carriers.

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 8 April 1981)

An answer to radioactive waste storage

The Karlsruhe Atomic Research Centre has developed a ceramic matrix material for storing and neutralising radioactive plutonium waste.

The Centre has developed the product in the past two years as part of a research commission from the European Community.

Powdery and liquid waste is injected into the ceramic substance and sintered at 1300 degrees Celsius. The end-product is stable, resistant to both heat and radiation.

(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 8 April 1981)





Art form under challenge: a scene from an operatic version of 'The Rake's Progress'.

(Photo: Fritz Peyer)

■ THE ARTS

Despite full houses, function of opera comes under close scrutiny

Any defence of the opera as an art form these days generally meets with a shrug of the shoulders, even from progressive artists and intellectuals. Thus has been the general response since the

of arguments. One is that it takes up an unrepresentatively large amount of cultural budgets, which are too small anyway. Another is that it is a socially irrelevant, anachronistic, conservative-reactionary art form which is fossilised, belongs in the museum and serves only the upper classes' inordinate love of pomp.

This wave of prejudice reached its climax at the end of the sixties, when French composer and Bayreuth conductor Pierre Boulez demanded that all opera houses should be blown up.

If the state of art forms were judged solely in terms of audiences, a defence of the opera would be superfluous: 85 to 90 per cent of opera houses seats are regularly filled.

Some years ago the Institute of Project Studies conducted a poll which found that 21 per cent of Germans go to an opera at least once a year. And of this 21 per cent, 54 per cent had elementary leaving certificates, 30 per cent had O levels and only 16 per cent had university entrance qualifications.

Many cultural politicians could conclude from these statistics alone that all is well with the music scene in this country — and in terms of audience interest and audience social structure this conclusion would be correct.

The key question which is constantly being posed is: what can the opera offer people today? Is the opera's function that of a museum, does it satisfy the aesthetic need for "beautiful appearances" or is there still an element of striving for liberty, upheaval and reconciliation as in the case of the early bourgeois opera around 1800 (Mozart's *Magic Flute* and Beethoven's *Fidelio*).

Of course the humanitarian message of the *Magic Flute* and the indictment of political oppression and despotism in *Fidelio* remain as relevant as ever, but are the musical and dramatic means of

the late 18th century the most appropriate mode of expression.

Ninety per cent of today's opera repertoire — ballet excluded — consists of works composed before the 20th century.

So yes, opera does have an artistic function — though in the case of the two above-mentioned classics the museum's exhibits are timeless.

After 1945, Rolf Liebermann was the only German opera director to include a large proportion of contemporary works in his opera repertoire. He was head of the Hamburg Opera for 14 years, in which he commissioned many contemporary works — with the full support of the Hamburg opera-goers. It is simply wrong to say that opera audiences are not interested in contemporary works.

On the other hand, it is not true to say that the opera has no raison d'être as a museum. On the contrary. The cultivation and re-interpretation of important works from the past is part of the overall task.

Another important task is to bring opera back into the socio-cultural field of force in which it operated from its



Rolf Liebermann

(Photo: Argilly)

origins until 1932 — to transform it from within into musical theatre.

It is true that opera is unfortunately far less the focal point of artistic and social discussion today than it was for example in the twenties or in previous centuries.

The major interests of our time are mainly reflected through other art forms. Some reasons for this have been mentioned above.

However, there have been a number of innovative and provocative composers working in opera in the past 30 years. Names such as Mauricio Kagel, Luigi Nono, Hans Werner Henze, Györgi Ligeti, Bernd Alois Zimmermann and the like are all artists who in their own very different ways have underlined the essential role of opera as part of our overall cultural heritage.

Philosopher Ernst Bloch regarded the opera and music in general as spurs to hope, confidence and the realisation of a "concrete: utopia." And another great thinker of this century, Herbert Marcuse, came to a similar view of the role of art in society after a radical revision of his ideas in later life.

For many decades, Marcuse insisted on the position developed in his *The Affirmative Character of Culture*. Here he said that art should be directly integrated into life and that this would inevitably lead to the death of art.

In his final major work, *The Permanence of Art*, Marcuse revised this position. In this work, he says that art must maintain its autonomy in our increasingly bureaucratised age. This, he argues, is the only way it can escape the fetters of the dominant point of view.

And here Marcuse is referring to all art, not just to socially relevant art, whatever that may be.

Is opera too expensive? Against the background of what has already been said, the answer to this must be a categorical no. It is true, though, that this money is sometimes spent too carelessly, ineffectively and unimaginatively. And of course the opera is the most expensive item in the cultural budget. The Deutsche Oper in Berlin — which ranks with the Hamburg and Munich operas

in terms of size, subsidies and cost — had a total budget of DM59m in 1979. Of this, DM9m was recouped by box office takings and the remainder DM50m was a state subsidy.

In return, the Deutsche Oper produced 336 performances in the 1977/78 season and audiences totalled 550,000, considerably more than many top German football clubs.

No theatre attracted anything like the same numbers. Of course it is the nature of opera to be expensive: the orchestra, soloists, workshops etc. — personnel costs and gobble up sums — 90 per cent of the Deutsche Oper's budget — which is hardly surprising when one considers that the Deutsche Oper has a permanent staff of 1,000.

Labour market and socio-economic aspects cannot be adduced as arguments for the opera, which stand or fall on its aesthetic merits. However, these considerations are completely ignored either, especially times of rising unemployment.

The large number of permanent staff at the Deutsche Oper underlines the much-cited super fees paid to stars are very much the exception.

But this does not mean that there is any justification whatever for paying stars DM10,000 to DM20,000 for a performance — out of taxpayers' money.

There is no denying that brilliant singing is part of the fascination of opera. A singer goes through a long, arduous training, has no guarantee of security and is subjected to great physical and psychological stress. This above-average payment for artists can be justified, though by no means



Herbert Marcuse

(Photo: Bielefeld)

rage I do not mean anything like the fees mentioned.

Finally a word must be said about foolish and short-sighted attempts to make some cultural representatives who are a larger slice of the cultural budget stoop to indicting the opera as a tawdry and spoilt monster. Instead of joining together for higher subsidies, people fight one another for a piece of the cake.

It ought to be understood that a nation such as ours which is prepared to spend DM65m and even more for a fighter jet should support the opera, traditional and modern art forms.

It can be said that intensification of art and culture will improve individual's chances of combating daily pressures and attacks that are pressing him. Art — of which the opera is a part — will be a key aid to the coming years.

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MEDICINE

Advances aid the infertile, but ethical questions remain

Even those who heard only a fraction of the 600-odd papers that were read at the 3rd World Congress on Human Procreation at Berlin's Congress Centre could not escape the impression that normal procreation and pregnancy is the exception rather than the rule today.

Much of the Congress dealt with ways and means of artificially preventing and restoring fertility and with "repair jobs" for sterile men and barren women.

For couples who for one reason or another cannot have children for whom even surgery is not feasible there still remains the test tube baby.

Discussion on the ethical and legal questions that go with test tube babies was held before rows of empty seats. But even before then it had become obvious that a technology, once introduced, can no longer be reversed.

Not only the various religions — above all the Catholic Church — frown upon such juggling with ovum and semen. Lay sceptics argue that the world suffers more from overpopulation than from a baby shortage.

However, procreation specialists argue that their main objective is to help the individual, the patient.

"We are no politicians," they say, "and therefore social issues are not our concern."

The unfulfilled wish for a child, on the other hand, can impose a severe emotional strain. Moreover, biologists and doctors have learned a great deal about the mechanisms of procreation and prenatal development and are thus able to prevent malformations in infants. The picture for treating childless couples has greatly changed.

Only a few years ago the insemination of a woman with the semen of an unknown man was the subject of heated medical and ideological debate.

Today, the experts find that their work is barely disturbed by such considerations.

Heterologous insemination, as it is called, is becoming routine for both specialised doctors and hospitals.

Medical congresses like that in Berlin now only deal with techniques and the most promising methods of such insemination.

Microsurgery, a major instrument in

helping couples have children of their own, has also been improved in the past few years, though it still has its limitations.

Fallopian tube blockages can only be remedied by surgery if they are not too extensive and if the blockage is accessible. It is therefore not surprising that this type of surgery will soon be regarded as antiquated.

The original controversy over the first test tube baby that was born on 25 July 1978, Louise Brown, has given way to matter-of-fact scientific discussions.

The "medical fathers" of Louise, British Drs Patrick Steptoe and Robert Edwards, were thus a major magnet for the majority of the 1,200 participants in the Congress as were their equally successful Australian counterparts.

Sixteen pregnancies have so far been brought about in Australia by uniting ovum and semen. Two of these babies have meanwhile been born, another one is due, and nine women are only a few months short of delivery.

Edwards and Steptoe, who have so far produced two test tube babies, reported on eight further pregnancies, intimating that this was not all.

They recently abandoned their university work to open a commercial clinic in a medieval English castle.

This type of insemination is usually carried out in cases where the fallopian tubes are blocked due to some former

infection. So far as men are concerned, the method is indicated when there is a shortage of fertile semen because artificial insemination requires much fewer semen cells than the natural variety.

Constant control of hormones and of the ovaries by means of ultrasonic devices enables the doctor to determine the most favourable moment when the ovum is ripe, but before the follicle bursts.

First, the doctor extracts the sperm. Then, using a syringe, he sucks an ovum cell from the follicle.

Following a series of laboratory tests, the semen and the ovum cell are placed in a nutrient solution where insemination takes place.

The inseminated ovum cell can now mature in an incubator and is then implanted in the uterus.

This is where the major problem lies because the mucous membrane of the uterus undergoes changes that are too fast for the relatively slow process of artificial insemination.

This timing problem can be aggravated still further when — as is being done by the Australians — hormones are used to stimulate the creation of several follicles in order to more easily obtain a fertile ovum.

On the other hand, it should be possible to add a different hormone that will slow down the changes in the mucous

Many ways to help childless to have children

as dopamine and serotonin can retard or promote hypophysis.

The pituitary gland responds to environmental sensations among other things. All these insights have led to the development of new disciplines of medicine, among them reproductive medicine, the aim of which is to make reproduction controllable in a negative and in a positive sense.

The intention is to use medical knowledge about reproductive processes to help childless couples have children (there are still considerable gaps concerning male reproductive functions) and, on the other hand, to develop new contraceptive methods — such as the pill for the man — that will help stem the population explosion in many parts of the world.

Professor Eberhard Nieschlag of the Clinical Research Group for Reproductive Medicine of the Max Planck Society deplores the fact that this line of medicine has not yet become established as an independent discipline.

Professor Hermann P.G. Schneider draws attention to the fact that West Germany's population is diminishing by 200,000 every year (the population of a city like Münster) and that ten per cent of couples are unable to have children.

This made research into the treatment of sterility essential.

The growing number of childless couples, he said, can be explained by the new insights about the interplay between the pituitary gland and hypophysis.

To overcome this synchronisation problem, reproduction researchers now toying with the idea of a technique that has long been known in animal husbandry: deep freezing of sperm and female cells or already inseminated ova, i.e. embryos.

This would make it possible to postpone the prospective mother's next cycle and then choose the right moment for implantation.

Veterinary surgeons and doctors discussed the matter in a totally different way. They arrived at the conclusion that human sperm is almost as suitable for deep freezing as is the sperm of other animals, though unfortunately the method is not yet worked in practice. (The deep freeze method is already in use in heterologous insemination.) There is some problem with the defrosting of embryos — but given time this can be overcome.

In the United States, which has been a pioneer in this field, there is some talk of using a rent-a-sperm scheme in cases of women who for one reason or another have no uterus. The rented mother would place her uterus at the couple's disposal.

Ten to 15 per cent of all couples are unable to have children. Up to 25 per cent of this infertility is due to psychological reasons. They are anxious to remedy the situation, and the experts say that they should be taught to cope with their problem meets with little success.

Progress in reproductive medicine has been so swift that those who today fear the future of human procreation must look at its limitations, talk about things past.

Justin Weill



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■ EDUCATION

'Standstill over realities of 1980s not only a matter of cash'

The vaunted "empty coffers dictate" in Bonn, the *Länder* and the municipalities has brought some action in a field of politics that experts have been tediously sifting despite fierce ideological disputes. But the action and movement, as evidenced by the statements of politicians, education ministers and spokesmen for various organisations is not directed forward.

The current slogan is not "Accept the Challenge of the 80s and 90s" by investing in the future in the most important sector by providing good education and vocational training for the largest possible number of apprentices and university students and tackling the job with vigour.

On the contrary. The courage needed to tackle the challenge and tread new paths is being stifled by another slogan that is rampant now, i.e. "stop the Experiments". It is also being stifled by financial cutbacks involving money needed for the construction of new universities, for new teaching positions and for scholarships.

Lower Saxony's Education Minister Remmer, CDU, demands that the joint Federal Government-*Länder* Commission on Educational planning be disbanded because there is nothing left to plan.

Yet educational policy makers of all parties were in agreement in the early 1970s when that body was established and the first overall educational plan was worked out in 1973. There was consensus at the time that, in the long run, 20 per cent of each school year should go on to university. Among the other important objectives were the appointment of additional teachers to make for smaller classes and a nation-wide project for comprehensive schools as an alternative to the traditional 3-tier educational system.

The percentage of students having now been reached and the comprehensive school in its various forms tested, the SPD and FDP, the most ardent protagonists at the time, are reluctant to continue on that course.

In the other political camp there is now a clear sign of smugness over the fact that the necessity to economise is about to thwart the whole project which never enjoyed much favour in that camp in the first place.

Childless

Continued from page 12

It was initially extremely difficult to reproduce the pattern of this rhythm but the use of pumps during the past 18 months helped overcome the problem.

Attached to the patient's clothing, the pump releases LH into the blood stream at exactly the natural intervals.

Science can chalk it up as a great success that this form of sterility can now be treated (25 per cent of the patients thus treated have so far become pregnant). But diagnosis and therapy are tedious.

In view of this, it is legitimate to ask whether adopting an orphan is not just as good a solution.

Angela Heck
(Die Welt, 14 April 1981)



The whole movement has been spearheaded by the teachers' associations rather than the politicians. The target of their attack is the comprehensive school — and that at the very moment when a decision is about to be reached in the *Länder* as to whether this type of school should enjoy equal status with the traditional 3-tier system.

The secondary school teachers' association now maintains that the atmosphere at comprehensive schools is "cold" and that it promotes "aggression, selfishness and violence."

This is a blend of not very clever arguments, a bizarre contribution to the topical discussion on the causes of revolt among some of our young people and a deliberate disregard for scientific findings.

According to these findings, comprehensive school students are more eager to learn than their opposite numbers in traditional schools and the atmosphere between teachers, parents and children is anything but "cold".

The teachers' association fails to mention that, as polls in North Rhine-Westphalia show, well over one-fourth of the parents would like to send their children to a comprehensive school if there were one nearby.

Instead, they repeat ancient prejudices: Comprehensive school promotes

Top talent in German schools is being wasted because of the traditional school system, unenlightened parents and the "equal opportunity" policies of education, says a group of educationists.

They say that between 0.5 and 2 per cent of pupils, the top range, is not being developed the way it is in the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain.

Objections to the system are being spearheaded by the German Teachers Association.

Moves were made last year to introduce special classes for genius children, but the project had to be postponed.

In June, the idea is to be further discussed during a "contact week".

Case histories are used to back up the arguments. One involves Michael, who by the time he was four could ski, play a musical instrument, write, add, subtract, and — using his own method — divide.

By the time he was five, he beat the chess champion of a city in southern Germany, and could speak several languages.

Michael looked forward to school — until he got there.

Just for fun, one weekend he solved all problems in his maths book, and promptly was chided by the teacher. He was no longer asked questions in class because, as the teacher put it, he knew everything.

Michael's frustration became chronic, resulting in crying fits, illness and lack of appetite.

The "talented but opinionated" and in-

only the collective as a whole, good students learn less than they could and poor ones learn no more than in traditional schools.

Another teachers' association recently deplored that a whole generation of students considers loafing more important than learning, overlooking the fact that hundreds of thousands of young people struggle to improve their grades by decimal points to enable them to enrol in university without knowing whether their efforts will be rewarded.

Such conservative efforts to declare the entire experimental phase in our educational policy a failure and finished have, of course, had their effects.

In North Rhine-Westphalia, Prime Minister Johannes Rau, SPD, has tabled a bill in the state legislature which most of his fellow party members have termed "lax and indecisive".

According to the detractors, the bill makes it virtually impossible to establish additional comprehensive schools in rural areas — and that notwithstanding the fact that the 32 existing schools of this type have to turn down one in two applicants.

Leading SPD politicians in North Rhine-Westphalia rebut this, arguing that "there are more important problems to be dealt with in these difficult times" than the tricky subject of comprehensive schools.

This fear of going ahead in matters of educational policy in a time of economic crisis is typical of the attitudes of SPD and FDP in Bonn as well.

The system, parents, accused over 'wasted talent'

troverted child" (as the teacher put it) had an IQ of 170.

Eva, now nine, was able to speak in complete sentences at the age of 11 months. When she was three she started to learn foreign languages from the guests in her parents' hotel, and by the time she was four she had a behavioural disorder.

While the Soviet Union, the United States and Britain have tackled the gifted child problem in a down-to-earth way through special summer courses for 14 to 16-year-olds (USA) or through special schools for the gifted aged between two and 15 as in Hurst, England, in this country the problem of the child genius is simply being ignored.

But there is an outcry now for the promotion of these children, pioneered by the German Teachers Association which deplores the manner in which our gifted children are being treated.

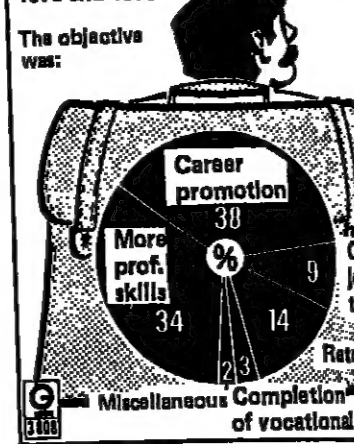
The Society for the Promotion of Highly Talented Children in Hamburg and the Christian Youth Village Organisation were all set to start a special class for genius children last year.

The fact that the project had to be postponed to the 1981/82 school year is not necessarily a disadvantage.

Ideas on the setup of such a class have meanwhile become clearer, contacts between educationalists and the Youth Village Organisation closer.

Further Education: Career opportunities

2.1 million workers took part in further education courses between 1970 and 1979



The 20 per cent cutback in *Länder* projects for the construction of universities, as agreed upon in the union negotiations, and the cutback in funds set aside for basic research and technology in the Research Ministry are telling examples.

Yet the coalition government in Bonn with the motto "Courage to Tackle the Future". This is irreconcilable with the lack of vital investments in the last such as those in the research and education sectors.

Courage would have meant setting priorities — especially in times when funds are in short supply.

If the jungle of subsidies were cleared there would be ample room for the final itself, Strödter commented: "We won. We held on. It was a performance, especially in the second half and extra time, when I thought we were the better side."

The constant talk about the risk of unemployment being the greater the lower the standard of education, he made it mandatory to take decisions regarding vocational training.

These teams are members of the FIH, which organises the Buenos Aires event.

Peter Abgasser
(Nürnberg Nachrichten, 7 April 1981)

SPORT

German girls win world hockey championship

West Germany has won the women's hockey world championship for the second time in five years. The team beat the defending champions, Holland, 4-2, on penalties in the final in Buenos Aires.

The score at the end of extra time was 1-1, but the goalie, Susi Schmidt, saved three out of four penalties by the Dutch girls.

Wolfgang Strödter, the team trainer, had hardly wished for a better birthday present.

Strödter, holder of 1976 International Cup, said: "This championship meant as much to us as winning a gold at the Olympics."

The team, with an average age of 22 years and six months, is unusually young.

Strödter singled out Schmidt for special mention, describing her as the best goalkeeper in the competition.

For the final itself, Strödter commented: "We won. We held on. It was a performance, especially in the second half and extra time, when I thought we were the better side."

The team, with an average age of 22 years and six months, is unusually young.

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But this in no way detracts from the West German team's achievement. Strödter, who is an honorary trainer but hopes to be officially appointed national trainer later this year, pointed out that there were four world-class teams in the competition, the two finalists plus the Soviet Union, who took third place, and Australia, who came fourth. Strödter also said that Argentina, who came sixth, are now also very strong.

It is already clear that there is going to be some bitter arguing between the two hockey organisations about qualification criteria for the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Strödter says: "Our world championship title in Argentina is definitely an important step towards qualification."

The trend which emerged in Moscow despite the absence of some of the world's strongest teams was evident in Argentina. Improved training methods have made women's hockey more athletic, faster and harder.

Strödter's verdict: "Despite technical

This time last year, Hamburg SV footballers were on the point of winning two championships, the league and the European Cup. In the end, they won neither.

But the club treasurer did not complain. Payment of DM1m in bonuses was saved.

Now Bayern Munich is in a similar position.

No doubt club treasurer Scherer



On the way to a dramatic victory. The German women's hockey team (black dresses) in action against the defending champions, Holland, in the final of the world championships in Buenos Aires. (Photo: dpa)

imperfections, the Soviet Union were superior to all other teams athletically. We will have to draw our conclusions from this."

He regards this team as the core of his Olympic squad for 1984.

However he recognises that profes-

onal and family commitments can often make it very difficult to keep a successful team together: "Women often give up competitive sport at the age of 25 whereas men can put up world-class performances at 30."

dpa
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 7 April 1981)

Winning is nice, but it can be expensive for soccer clubs

would be as pleased as the next man if Bayern did the double, but from a purely economic viewpoint one victory would be enough — as it would ensure participation in next year's European Cup.

For this reason, the Bayern board has put two provisions into its bonus scheme. It will pay each member of the squad DM40,000 for winning the German championship.

This will be payable in two instalments, one immediately and one after the club has reached the second round of the European Cup in the 1981/82 season.

If, as in 1975, Bayern win the European Cup, they will only get the DM40,000 bonus if they fail to win the Bundesliga.

As manager Uli Hoernes points out,

economic success is the only factor which decides the amount of the bonus.

A European Cup victory increases a team's international value on the transfer market and in friendly games. This is why manager Scarnati wants a pay rise.

Hoernes plans next year to sell club emblems and pennants and all kinds of other odds and ends. He is confident this will prove a money-spinner.

Fans who want their team to win everything going are unlikely to appreciate all the cold calculation of marks and pennings.

But it's the only way to survive in this risky business.

(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10 April 1981)

Promotion problems 'not solved by using fancy descriptions for events'

International German championships are sprouting up like daffodils in May — in tennis, table tennis, judo, skiing, rowing, boxing and other disciplines.

These championships often promise more than they deliver, as the recent intercup boxing tournament in Münster underlined.

The temptation is strong for sports officials to upgrade national championships by calling them "international" — it sounds far better.

But these fine-sounding titles don't exactly attract the world's elite.

In fact the devaluation of international German championships in recent

years has tended to make people forget that some of these competitions — in rowing for instance — are genuinely world-class events.

The "international" has not pulled in huge crowds, either. The public is much better informed about sport these days, and will only turn up en masse when major international stars are performing.

The organiser of the International German Indoor Tennis Championships

in Sindelfingen can tell a tale or two about this problem.

Borg, Connors and McEnroe were conspicuous by their absence. The International German Championships title is about as exclusive as a package tour to Majorca, so the organisers described the competition as the "strongest 75,000 dollar competition."

This did not exactly get the crowds pouring in.

The public are not gullible. They are not impressed by fine wrapping. They want to see top-quality performances, not to hear vain promises of great things to come.

Süddeutsche Zeitung

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